

# FISTS QSO Party

## Powered by FISTS Down Under

Friday nights, 1100-1200UTC

Bring your favourite key/paddle/bug/swiper/keyboard and let's have some fun. Bugs, keys and cooties are preferred, but bring your own flavour of sending device and join in. The FISTS QSO Party is a casual, friendly event/contest intended to promote activity, build skills, and offer a bit of a competitive environment for those who enjoy a challenge.

**When:** Every Friday at 1100-1200UTC on 80m.

**Frequencies:** 80m, but let's try to stay between 3.515-3.535MHz

**Speed:** You choose. Your QSO buddy should match your speed. Try challenging yourself... go back to someone sending a little faster than ur used to... see how you go. Ask to "QRS just a little" and the other station might just increase character spacing instead. Try the Farnsworth methods and speed up but increase the space between characters and words....

**Exchange:** QSO basics – name, QTH, signal report and FDU number if you have one. Pls feel welcome to have a conversation, or just stick to the basics.

**Goals:** develop competence, confidence and have fun. Work as many (or as few) stations as you wish.

**Scoring:** 1 point per QSO. Contest prizes are monthly and are the sum of your weekly scores multiplied by the number of weeks you submitted a log for that month.

**Prize:** To be announced

**Logs:** Pse email your logs with claimed score, summary, soapbox comments and photos in any format (Word, Excel, PDF, Photo of handwritten log) to [vk3qb@hotmail.com](mailto:vk3qb@hotmail.com)

Feel free to use the FISTS Discord channel to assist in arranging your first QSOs or seek guidance from more experienced ops.

Above all, please respect other operators, try to meet their speed and QSO style, and have fun.

## Hints 'n Tips

Callsigns are only required once every 10 minutes and at the beginning and end of each transmission, **not** for each over. Please minimise the use of callsigns to help with the flow of conversations, information exchange and to speed up QSO rates. QSOs can become very slow and dull if callsigns are exchanged on every over.

Try sending something different like your radio model, antenna, age, how long in the hobby.... Latest DX worked... anything really.

To help with general skills improvement and more conversational QSOs, as well as improved QSO rates some guidelines are offered in Appendix 1.

If you hear a station but are unsure of their callsign send "QRZ? de vk2fdu", thus enabling the other station to immediately call you and commence the QSO.

Be mindful that bad habits can form over time. Eg. failing to leave that vital space between characters, or after the VKn running straight to the next character. Those with E or T in their call may be prone running characters together and anyone with a K as last letter needs to be very careful, -maybe add "pse k" at the end of your cq sequence.

**Mistakes:** don't stress too much over minor mistakes. If it's a basic mistake and won't have impacted your intended message, meaning, or word, just move on. Sending 8 dits and repeating the word is not mandatory. (and some may say is a waste of time)... only correct and repeat if it is material to the meaning or validity of the contact. E.g. your FDU number or signal report.

If you need time to gather your thoughts following a mistake, try sending BT (-...-) a few times, then just move to the next word.

Above all, the FISTS QSO Party is designed for all members and CW ops to join in a regular friendly event to build skills. If you're new maybe spend a week or two just listening in to appreciate how QSOs play out, different styles and how operators react to varying scenarios.

If you'd like help simply drop me an email and I can help line up a few QSOs.

We're going to run this event for one hour on 80m. Hopefully during the Winter months we should get participation from ZL in the East to Perth in the West, Hobart in the South and Brisbane (maybe even further) in the North.

If you'd like to extend the event for another hour let me know. If you simply want to keep going after the event finishes, go right ahead.

As always, we welcome your feedback.

No matter how competitive you are (or otherwise), GL in the party/contest.

We'll publish results every month and send prizes to the winner.

Oh... if you haven't read this document, pop it on your reading list. It's great for all skill levels.

[https://www.g4ifb.com/FOC\\_Guide\\_to\\_Morse\\_Code\\_Proficiency.pdf?fbclid=IwAR34B0P\\_Zob44m5YU4y8f5aAOsFlyKsSwO3y2D66C0uMrng7A8VYX7uNFUE](https://www.g4ifb.com/FOC_Guide_to_Morse_Code_Proficiency.pdf?fbclid=IwAR34B0P_Zob44m5YU4y8f5aAOsFlyKsSwO3y2D66C0uMrng7A8VYX7uNFUE)

## Appendix 1 – Sample QSO Exchange

Below is a typical exchange for a basic FISTS QSO Party contact. You may truncate this to something even more basic if you simply want to make a QSO and build your confidence... or if conditions are good and you want to increase your point tally.

Note the below exchange will take about 8 minutes at 12-14WPM. If you make a mistake don't panic, and if your mistake is minor... just move on. If you need to gather yourself, send BT (-...-) a few times and then continue.

As a rule, try to be relaxed and as informal as possible. We aren't military or professional ops and we're just trying to build our skills, confidence and enjoy the hobby. (in the below example VK2FDU is making the call, VK9NT is returning and his text is in *italics*)

QRL QRL?

Comment: leave a small pause, and if you're confident the frequency is clear, fire away!

CQ CQ CQ fists de VK2FDU VK2FDU VK2FDU CQ K

Comment: Keep CQ calls to 3x3 and regular... repeat every 5-8 seconds.

*VK2FDU de VK9NT VK9NT K*

VK9NT de VK2FDU (BT) ge es tnx fer call. Ur rst 579 579. Op bob es qth cbr cbr. Fdu nr 12345 12345. Hw cpi? k

Comment: note the prosign BT used, meaning "pause", also sometimes used as "thinking music whilst you quickly gather your thoughts, or even how to spell the next word! Generally, repeating key info twice is adequate. If the other station needs a repeat, they'll ask.

*r r qsl bob es tnx (BT) ur rst 5nn 5nn. Op hr chris chris es qth norfolk isl norfolk isl. FDU is 9085 9085. Qsl? k*

Comment: note 5nn. "n" is commonly used in place of "9"... and "T" or "O" is used in place of the number zero. If Chris VK9NT needed Bob's FDU nr again he might ask

*r r qsl bob es tnx (BT) ur rst 5nn 5nn. op hr chris chris es qth norfolk isl Norfolk isl. fdu is 9085 9085 (BT) ur fdu nr agn pse? K*

r fb qsl chris es tnx info. fdu nr 12345 12345 (BT) Using 1959 vibroplex bug hr, ant is dipole, pwr 100w. tnx fer qso es cul. GL de vk2fdu k

*r fb Bob. Nice sigs es gud job wid bug. Using blade key hr. tnx qso es cul. GL. 73 73 vk2fdu de vk9nt AR tu tu e e*

Comment: Prosign AR meaning "end of message" or you could use QRU... or neither!

R tnx chris 73 73 e e

Comment: and from here VK2FDU can call CQ again.

Now, if conditions are bad, either because of QRM, QRN or weak sigs, you should try to minimise QSO exchanges to the bare minimum. All you really want to achieve under adverse conditions is the minimum for a QSO:

Callsign, RST and QSL. Maybe include name and FDU number if you can.

Make the basic exchange and move on. Keep the QSO rate up and build your skills.

The use of short-form words, or abbreviations is common. You should be aware of the most commonly used abbreviations – many of which are presented below.

Abt – about	Agn – again	Ant – antenna	Bk – break
Cfm – confirm	Cu – see you	Cul – see you later	Cu agn – see you again
De – this is	Dn – down	Dr – dear	El – element
Es – and	Fb – fine business (excellent)	Fer – for	Ga – good afternoon
Ge – good evening	Gm – good morning	Gn – good night	Gud – good
Hi – a morse code laugh	Hpe – hope	Hw – how (or how copy?)	Nil – nothing heard (or copied)
Nr – number	Om – old man	Op – operator	Pse – please
Pwr – power	R – received	Sked – schedule	Sri – sorry
T – zero	Tks – thanks	Tnx- thanks	Tu – thank you
U – you	Ur – your	Vy – very	Vry – very
Wid - with	Wud – would	Wx – weather	73 – best regards

### **Q – Codes**

You should also understand the common Q-codes. Refer Appendix 1.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions about the content of this document, or the jingo used, please send me an email.

73, Chris VK3QB

[Vk3qb@hotmail.com](mailto:Vk3qb@hotmail.com)

## **Appendix 2 - Useful references**

### **Learning the code**

<http://www.fdu.org.au/getting-on-air/>

### **Guide to Morse Code Proficiency (recommended for everyone)**

[https://www.g4ifb.com/FOC\\_Guide\\_to\\_Morse\\_Code\\_Proficiency.pdf?fbclid=IwAR34B0P\\_Zob44m5YU4y8f5aAOsFlyKsSwO3y2D66C0uMrng7A8VYX7uNFUE](https://www.g4ifb.com/FOC_Guide_to_Morse_Code_Proficiency.pdf?fbclid=IwAR34B0P_Zob44m5YU4y8f5aAOsFlyKsSwO3y2D66C0uMrng7A8VYX7uNFUE)

### **Q-Codes**

<http://www.fdu.org.au/q-codes/>

### **How to use a paddle**

[https://vk4je.com/cw/pdfs/K7QO\\_Iambic\\_Paddle-Operation.pdf](https://vk4je.com/cw/pdfs/K7QO_Iambic_Paddle-Operation.pdf)

And don't forget our own links page

<http://www.fdu.org.au/useful-links/>